

Sale of captive power plants by SAIL

2494. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SAIL has any propose to sell its captive power plants to reduce loss and to get more fund;
- (b) if so, the reasons for constructing captive power plants in the past; and
- (c) the reasons for distancing with them at present explaining the change that has caused the about-turn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Government has approved SAIL's proposal for Financial & Business Restructuring, which includes conversion of some of the captive power plants of SAIL into a joint venture.

(b) In view of the unsatisfactory experience with the supply of power from utility grids/Electricity Boards, associated with conditions like load restrictions, improper voltage/frequency levels, occasional interruptions, captive power plants were set up to supplement the utility supply, to ensure rhythm of production and for the safety of personnel & equipment.

(c) Even after formation of the joint venture, the power generated would still be captive to the steel plants.

Import of steel

2495. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are importing steel from foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether import of steel leads to decline in the prices of steel in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to assist our steel industry?